

The distance from the observer of the birds that cross the moon's disk not being known, the problem of computing the height at which they fly is not accurately determinable. But assuming, as may be reasonably done, that the crossing birds are at least one mile distant, and, in all probability, not more than five miles, the approximate height at which they travel may be calculated within certain limits. Of these heights Mr. Chapman has given us a table, showing that they vary from 600 to 15,100 feet in different cases. But further observations are required on this subject before much reliance can be placed on the results thus obtained. The number of the birds passing the field of view in a given time is also a subject of great importance upon which further information is wanted. On the whole it may be confidently stated that here is a practical scheme for obtaining much fresh information on the interesting subject of migration open to any one to whom the use of a good telescope at the migratory period is available.

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*Winter-birds in Spitsbergen.*—It appears from Mr. Arnold Pike's diary, lately published in Mr. Abel Chapman's 'Wild Norway,' that even in Spitsbergen, where the sun does not rise above the horizon for nearly four months, individuals of at least four species of birds are found throughout this season. Mr. Pike, who passed the winter of 1888–89 in Dane's Gat, near Amsterdam Island (79° N. lat.), states that he saw "Tysties" on January 11th, and heard Eiders and Guillemots "crying and diving close inshore." On February 10th "Ryper's" droppings were observed. The Spitsbergen Grouse, Mr. Pike says, make long burrows in the snow, and thus reach the autumnal crop of berries and seeds stored up beneath its surface. We may therefore put down four species of birds as remaining in Spitsbergen throughout the winter:—*Lagopus hemileucurus*, *Uria mandti*, *Uria bruennichi*, and *Somateria mollissima*. To these, perhaps, the Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) should be added; at any rate, it was observed on February 20th, the day on which the sun was first seen at noon.

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*New Work on the Structure of Birds.*—Mr. Beddard's work on the Anatomy, Osteology, and Pterylography of Birds, on which he has been engaged for several years, is now in the printer's hands, and is expected to be ready for publication in the course of the summer. It embraces not only his own observations, but many of the results arrived at by Garrod and Forbes—his predecessors in the Prosectorship of the Zoological Society of London, who both devoted much time and attention to this subject. Messrs. Longmans are the publishers of the work.

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*The Collection of Birds'-eggs at the British Museum.*—We are pleased to be able to announce that Mr. Eugene W. Oates has undertaken to complete the arrangement of the eggs in the Collection of the British Museum and to prepare a catalogue of them, and has already commenced the work. The late Mr. Seebohm devoted much time and attention to this enormous collection, which was brought into working-order under his superintendence, but he did not live to complete the task. A valuable addition is the collection of Chilian eggs belonging to the late Mr. H. Berkeley James, which has been recently presented to the British Museum by Mrs. James.

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*International Ornithological Exhibition.*—We are requested by the Foreign Office to inform the Members of the British Ornithologists' Union that an International Ornithological Exhibition will be held at St. Petersburg in the course of the current year. Programmes of the Exhibition will be published in the Monthly Journal of the Board of Trade as soon as they are received.

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*Publications relating to British Birds.*—Mr. W. Ruskin Butterfield requests us to state that he has been intrusted by Dr. Elliott Coues with the completion of the 'List of Faunal Publications relating to British Birds.' (See Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. ii. pp. 359-477.)